

Magnuson Park Advisory Committee
The Belvedere Room of the Brig
January 9, 2013 6 – 7:30 PM

Attending: MPAC Members: Julianna Ross, Ed Bronsdon, Peter Zimmerman, Aaron Hoad, Loren Hill, Gail Chiarello, Morgan Collins, Tom Kelly, Heather Burns, Lynn Ferguson (alternate for Rusty Williams), Nancy Bolin. Absent: Herb Curl, Rusty Williams, Diana Kincaid. Parks staff: Nathan Torgelson.

Chair Julianna Ross called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm. Gail Chiarello offered to take notes for the 2013 meetings.

Notes from the Chair:

- Building 18 Update: [Julianna, I didn't catch what this consisted of]
- Signage Sub-committee Question: There was discussion on the difference between "wayfinding" (signs which lead people to certain places) and "signage" appearing on buildings. Repainting and repurposing of out of date "wayfinding" sign project was completed for less than \$40,000 some months back. A comprehensive "wayfinding" signage proposal was drafted a few years ago. To complete this project would cost substantially more than \$100,000 per notes that Charles Ng with Seattle Parks had shared with MPAC a few years ago. The format of signs on buildings is still under review; the Landmarks Preservation Board has not yet come up with standards for building signs. The need for signage guidelines was discussed.
- Public Benefits Policy for Parks. The Chair stated there had been a proposal that an MPAC subcommittee work on guidelines for public benefits. Others thought this should come from the Parks Board of Commissioners, and that MPAC might forward its recommendations to the Parks Board. Ed Bronsdon said that tenants in the park had been asked by Isabel Hamilton with Seattle Parks and Recreation to report the number of program days and hours, and the number of visitor various groups had had, and that this self-reported "public benefits" information had been very enlightening. Hundreds of hours and hundreds of visitors were logged. Isabel Hamilton should have the aggregate report for Magnuson Park.
- Building 11 Trial Dates: The Building 11 trial is set to begin Monday, January 28, 2013.
- Porta-potties in the Park: These lack paper toilet seat covers. Nathan Torgelson said that the Parks Department lacked a budget for this item.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Building 9 Status Update: Nancy Bolin requested an update on the status of Building 9 and where things stood with Speaker Frank Chopp. Lynn Ferguson proposed that MPAC write to Frank Chopp and the state legislators in the 46th and the 43rd to urge that the Building 9 rehabilitation project not get stalled. It was recommended to wait for Aaron Hoad (who was running late) to provide the update.

Building 30 Status Update: Nathan Torgelson reported Building 30 bids were being received today and work on the hangar and the East Wing would begin in June. Work on the West Wing would begin later, but the hangar and the East Wing would be open for business while the West Wing work was underway.

NOAA Access Road Update: Nathan reported a letter was going out to Maryland today.

Tennis Center Update: Nathan reported there had been delays because of the December rain, but that the Sportsfield Drive would be re-opened by April, and work on the Tennis Center should be completed by June.

Building 18 Stabilization: Nathan reported that funds for this were still set-aside and had not been rebudgeted, although when the work would be done was unclear.

Building 2 Roof: Nathan reported Parks is pushing to have the Building 2 roof repairs.

MPAC Walking/Cycling Tours of the park. Ed Bronsdon is working to find a Saturday in the spring to have an MPAC tour of the park. He proposed the use of “Doodle” to allow MPAC members to select the actual date.

Roundtable Presentations by Parks tenants/user groups. Ed Bronsdon suggested inviting various tenants or user groups to give brief presentations on their activities at each meeting, following Herb Curl’s December presentation on the Audubon Neighborhood Bird Count activity at the park. Nancy Bolin suggested perhaps inviting someone once a quarter, since often the agenda was tight. Ed will work up a list of organizations whose programs might be of interest to the group.

Funding Update/“Bridging the Gap” Application. Peter Zimmerman reported that the SDOT Bridging the Gap application for a cross-walk bump he was working on with Kevin Bergsrud fell apart because of holiday pressures; and as a result, the December deadline was missed. Some suggested using the almost-completed application to apply for “Small & Simple” funds through the Department of Neighborhoods (maximum finding \$90K), which has a February 4th deadline. Only community groups can apply for these funds; thus MPAC could submit an application, but the Parks Department cannot. The need to bring the applications to the Northeast District Council for ranking was talked about. Lynn Ferguson suggested Friends of the Naval Air Station, Solid Ground, and the tenants might consider collaborating for a September deadline; but Heather Burns reported Solid Ground would shortly be understaffed since she was taking a position with the City’s Department of Housing. Nancy Bolin spoke of a proposal coming from the Wedgwood Neighborhood Council to list and prioritize all the transportation needs in northeast Seattle to make future Bridging the Gap application ranking easier. Nathan Torgelson said he would check with Kevin Bergsrud about the status of the cross-walk bump application to see if it might be submitted in time for the February 4th deadline.

Oral History Project. Lynn Ferguson stated that Friends of the Naval Air Station had received a “small and simple” grant to do oral history of the Naval Air Station. This will be headed up by Rusty Williams. Already she had learned that CM Sally Bagshaw’s husband’s mentor at his law firm had been a Navy pilot and was keen to offer his memories. CM Jean Godden would like to be interviewed. There was talk of the number of planes lying at the bottom of Lake Washington, and the air pressure differential when things went wrong which had blown out someone’s plate glass picture window and knocked over a bunch of small sailboats in the lake. Lynn also reported that on June 29, 2013 from 10AM-noon Friends of the Naval Air Station would conduct a tour of Magnuson Park for Historic Seattle.

Light Pollution in Parking Area E5: Tom Kelly raised concern about light pollution at the E-5 parking area. The lights there are relics from the Navy and are unshielded. The glare for those walking after dark is blinding, and dangerous, since the glare makes it difficult to see

others in the vicinity. Tom did not know if the E-5 lights provided glare for those on the water. Morgan Collins said no, there was no glare from the E-5 lights for those on the water; the glare came from the Swim Beach changing room lights. ACTION ITEM: It was agreed that MPAC would write to the Superintendent of Parks requesting that the E-5 parking lot lights be upgraded or shielded.

Building 9 Update Resumed. Aaron Hoard updated the group. The intent is to transfer the deed to Building 9 from the University of Washington to some other state agency—perhaps the Housing & Finance Commission, or the Department of Commerce—which would reissue an RFP seeking developers for low-income/former veterans housing. Speaker Chopp has assured UW that the funds will be found for the redevelopment. The price-tag is still in the \$50M range, with unknown variables such as debt service cost, revenue stream from low-income housing (versus market-rate), and etc. Gerding Edlund, the Portland developer who was poised to begin work in response to the UW's RFP, may still be interested, but for how long is unknown. They are working on a Historic Tax Credit application. Discussion indicated that identifying enough money for Building 9 could be difficult; the pot of money is finite, and many will be scrambling to get their share of it. Concern was expressed the Building 9 would continue to languish. ACTION ITEMS: Lynn Ferguson will draft a letter from MPAC to the Speaker and to the state legislators in the 43rd and the 46th, urging the Speaker to move expeditiously on the plans for Building 9. It has been vacant for over twenty years, and the UW was poised to finally make something happen, when the Speaker became involved. It was agreed to convey a sense of urgency to the Speaker, that this project should not become one more stalled project at Magnuson. A similar letter will also be sent to Senator Patty Murray, and the MPAC Chair, Julianna Ross, will try to schedule a face-to-face meeting with the Speaker to additionally convey our message. His aide, Orlando Cano, will be invited to address MPAC.

Building 2 Charette January 26th 10AM. A 15-minute walk-through of Building 2 will be held at the beginning of the charette, with the actual charette to be convened in the Brig. Experts to be invited include construction groups, architects, representatives from DPD, representatives from the Landmarks Board, and others, who will be able to answer questions about the costs and feasibility of rehabilitating the building. It was recommended that "Meredith," the architect who design Arena Sports and the Mountaineers, be invited. Ed Bronsdon thought he could invite Koener Construction. Among the Invitees who might have an interest in future tenancy of the building will be "Broadway Bound," the Office of Film & Music, 4Culture, the Burke Museum, and the Museum of Flight.

Outdoors for All Possible Program Expansion Ed Bronsdon announced that Outdoors for All was looking at adding programming for "wounded warriors" which could increase the size of that program tenfold. More information will be forthcoming as it becomes available.

Business being concluded, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Chiarello
Secretary